

Moscow, in French to Europe, Oct. 31, 1947, 12 noon EST

(Text)

"U.S. reactionary newspapers which specialize in anti-Soviet hysteria have recently made much noise about the allegedly sensational, absurd stories about imaginary Communist espionage groups. Facts prove the aim of this new bluff. The WASHINGTON STAR reports that the central bureau of the...recently dismissed 12 officials of its Foreign Broadcasts Section some of whom held high office. The reason for their dismissal was the displeasure of some Congressmen who claimed that the Broadcast Section had transmitted articles too favorable to the Soviet Union. Thus 12 people were thrown out simply for having appeared loyal (sic) to the USSR and this was enough to dismiss them under the pretext of State security reasons.

"The same newspaper says that the heads of the central bureau of the relevant trade union requested a hearing for the dismissed men. At short range this might be regarded as logical. No explanations are needed from people to be dismissed under any pretext whatsoever. The leaders of the administrative officials' trade union told a press representative that the dismissed men were--to quote them--the victims of unceasing persecution.

"It is easy to imagine that the men behind this persecution are the same who make such a fuss about the red danger. The well-known lie about Communist spies has been but a pretext to persecute undesirable elements once again. Such is the custom of the country which is so boastful about its respect of freedom of speech and of opinion."